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SUBJECT Activity at Sonnenstein Castle Relative to an East German Aircraft Industry

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1. Beginning 1 October 1952, lectures on signal communication problems, statics, mechanical engineering, and the testing of materials were established at Rostock (M 55/O 81) University. A total of 120 students was detached from the Dresden Institute of Technology and other universities to attend these courses in Rostock.¹
2. Except for Tops (fnu), all the former aircraft designers who were detached from the Warnemuende (M 55/O 82) shipyard and brought to Berlin sometime ago, returned to Warnemuende.² Landmann (fnu), a departmental chief at the shipyard, formerly a lecturer in aerodynamics at Stettin, will head the aircraft construction department of the naval engineering faculty at Rostock university until 1 December 1952.
3. Tops, Director General of the VVB Hochseeschiffbau at Rostock, and prior to 1945, project engineer at the Arado aircraft plant in Babelsberg, was called to Berlin and assigned the mission of organizing an aircraft industry in East Germany.³
4. Professor Guenther Bock, at present living in Zhukovskiy near Moscow, who had been invited to join the Design Bureau at Sonnenstein Castle, was offered two chairs at the Dresden Institute of Technology. The offer was motivated by the fact that almost 2,500 students had enrolled at the Dresden Institute this semester as contrasted with 1,100 in previous semesters. Bock was informed that he would draw a salary of 5,000 eastmarks per month. (sic) Source learned that Kcorsten (fnu), a departmental chief in the Bureau for Economic Affairs, had drawn up a list of all the German specialists still detained in the U.S.S.R. Kcorsten was to initiate measures to bring about the return of these specialists, including Bock.³
5. Key personnel of the High Frequency Telecommunication Engineering Plant in Berlin-Oberschoenewalde, particularly returnees from the U.S.S.R., were asked whether they were ready to work in an institute near Pirna.⁴
6. Engineers Pansegrau (fnu) and Paul Zimmermann, formerly employed at Plant 1 at Podberezhys, were employed at the Design Bureau in Sonnenstein Castle near Pirna.⁵

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7. In early August, two high ranking Soviet officers arrived at the Design Bureau in Sonnenstein Castle. The officers will stay there for some time. The installation was guarded by VP. Young engineers are being paid a monthly salary of 1,500 eastmarks.

8. A German engineer who arrived in Leipzig from Podberezhye was ordered to work in the Design Bureau at Sonnenstein Castle and was taken there together with his family by a member of the SSD. When the engineer asked what he was expected to do there, he was told that he would be employed as an aircraft designer. He was allegedly offered a monthly salary of 10,000 eastmarks. (sic)

1. Comment. The establishment of new chairs for technical sciences in East German universities indicates that an aircraft industry will be built up in this zone.

2. [REDACTED]

3. Comment. The same source reported previously that Professor Bock was selected for employment at Sonnenstein Castle.

4. Comment. This institute is probably identical with the Design Bureau at Sonnenstein Castle.

5. Comment. In Podberezhye, Engineer Pansegrau was assigned to the radio engineering section working on the OKB I project. His return to Germany is reported for the first time. Engineer Paul Zimmermann returned to East Germany in 1951.

6. Comment. The report indicates that a large Design Bureau is being established at Sonnenstein Castle near Pirna. It appears that the German specialists returning from the U.S.S.R. will be sent to this Bureau. The placing of these German specialists in one special bureau would serve Russian security interests and at the same time guarantee their effective utilization. Sonnenstein Castle would be an ideal location for such a Design Bureau whose activities are to be kept as secret as possible.

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